

# PHILIPPINES CAGAYANCILLO

## Reaping the benefits of protecting Tubbataha

After noticing the positive impact to fish stocks in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, the people of Cagayancillo were inspired to better manage their waters closer to home. In 2004, the community established the first set of local marine reserves in Cagayancillo, forming a chain of small marine protected areas (MPAs). Today, Cagayancillo has the largest protected coastal marine area in the Philippines.

### CHARACTERISTICS

**1,013,340ha**

of Cagayancillo waters are protected as a coastal marine area, which includes 528,000ha of municipal fisheries and an ecotourism zone, as well as about 485,000ha of open water that connects Cagayancillo and the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.

**7,000**

people are estimated to live in the Cagayancillo municipality.

### Natural refrigerator

is the term some Cagayancillo residents have coined for their fishing ground, an area they view as storage which they can access when needed.

**10%**

of the conservation fees collected in Tubbataha Reefs are dedicated to livelihood development projects in Cagayancillo to compensate for the World Heritage Site's no-fishing policy.

**45%**

of the fish catch in Cagayancillo is consumed locally.

### NOTABLE WINS & KEY LESSONS



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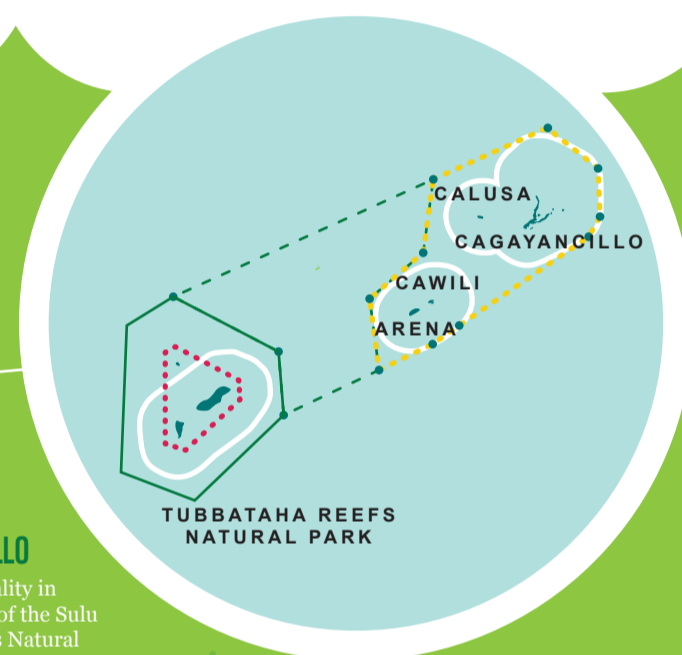
### ENHANCING AUTHORITY TO UPGRADE PROTECTION

Inspired by a series of WWF-facilitated community consultations and planning workshops, local representatives and community leaders realized they needed more clout to continue protecting their waters, particularly from transient fishermen who travel from outside the municipality. The consensus to establish a municipal-wide MPA was reached precisely to address this situation. Though this move will increase responsibilities for the local community and government, it will also allow them to impose regulatory measures to maintain fishing and tourism activities at sustainable levels.



### MUNICIPAL WATERS OF CAGAYANCILLO

Cagayancillo is an archipelagic municipality in Palawan found in the northeastern part of the Sulu Sea, about 130km from Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and 300km from the city of Puerto Princesa.



### LEGEND

- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
- TRNP Buffer
- Municipal Waters
- Commercial Fisheries and Internti Navigation Zone
- Municipal Fisheries and Ecotourism Zone

### WWF'S APPROACH IN CAGAYANCILLO

- Conducting household income surveys to assess trends in marine resource use and the viability of the sustainable seaweed sector
- Monitoring the reefs, fish and wildlife of Cagayancillo to determine the ongoing effectiveness of the MPA
- Facilitating community consultations to introduce conservation concepts and planning workshops between local officials and community stakeholders
- Supporting new plans to formulate a 10-year Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan which will serve as a long term guide for all projects and commercial activities in the Cagayancillo region

*“Since WWF introduced marine conservation in early 2000, we have been vigilant... The reefs sustain our needs for food and income, there is no one else who will protect them except us. For years now, we have had an abundant fish supply.”*

Nison Abados  
Cawili Island resident